24th February 1930]

Appendix VIII.

[Vide answer to question No. 1475 asked by Mr. Ahmed Miran Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th February 1930, page 37 supra.]

Copy of letter R.O.C. No. 23/25, dated 21st April 1925, from the District Health Officer, Tinnevelly, to the President, Distrcit Board, Tinnevelly.

With reference to your endorsement C. No. 15/25-4, dated 6th January 1925, I have the honour to submit herewith a report on the preventive measures to be adopted in Kayalpatnam after consulting the President, Union Board, and other influential gentlemen of the locality.

2. *Prophylaxis.*—This loathsome disease can be controlled if segregation measures can be carried out effectively. Isolation of the sick should be followed by thorough disinfection of infected clothes, houses, beddings and fomites. Destruction of all kinds of insects, especially bed-bugs is the most important measures. To avoid bed-bugs and other likely carriers of infection absolute personal and domestic cleanliness is the most important factor. The beddings and clothings should be exposed to the sun regularly. The infected floor and bed-steads should be scrubbed with kerosine oil and disinfectants should be freely used to destroy vermin. Propaganda work should be done to impress upon the people the importance of avoiding them.

3. Treatment of the sick is another important way of preventing the spread of the disease. Kayalpatnam is a big Muhammadan village and only the Muhammadan population is infected. Their women observe strict "Gosha system" and girls over 10 are generally left to their fate except in the case of the few rich and educated, who take their girls to a lady doctor for treatment, at great expense. So the most essential for effective treatment and thus for controlling Kala-azar is the appointment of a lady medical officer to the dispensary.

4. The President, Union Board, and other important persons of the town are anxious to have a medical officer of the grade of an assistant surgeon to be posted to the institution to do the injections more satisfactorily. If this is not possible, I think that it would be a great advantage to give the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Kayalpatnam a course of training at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

5. *General sanitation.*—The importance of devoting proper attention to the general sanitation of the place cannot be exaggerated and I have requested the President, Union Board, to bestow his best attention to it. Removal of congestion and provision of free ventilation is another important item which should engage the earnest attention of the Union Board. Some of the tortuous and narrow lanes in the crowded locality should be widened and made into broad streets.

6. In the interest of the general sanitation of the place it is quite necessary that the Muhammadan population should give up burying their dead in the large number of mosques situated in the different streets of the town. The President, Union Board, told me that there is no religious objection in burying the dead outside the premises of the mosque. It is more a matter of sentiment and it is the duty of influential Muhammadan gentlemen to convince their followers of the importance of doing this by strenuous propaganda.